specific safety works such as manning of unmanned level crossings and construction of Rail over/under bridges.

Conversion of Darbhanga-Nirmali Rail Line

†330. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the action being taken for gauge conversion of Darbhanga-Nirmali rail line in Samastipur division and also the Jhanjharpur-Lokana rail line in the same division of North Eastern Railway; and

(b) what is the latest status of the work in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS: (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Gauge conversioon of Darbhnga-Sakri is sanctioned as part of Narkatiaganj-Raxaul-Darbhanga-Jaynagar project. Work is in progress and earthwork for 29 km link has been completed. Tenders for a ballast supply have been called. This work would be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources. Gauge conversion of Sakri-Nirmali and Janjharpur-Lokahabazar is not yet sanctioned.

Rail Line Between Hubli and Ankola

331. SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to unstarred Question 1395, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st December, 2000 and state what is the progress made on the project for laying new Hubli-Ankola rail line and how much amount has been spent so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : The Final Location Survey for the work has been completed.Land acquisition is presently in progress. The work would be started once the land is made available. An amount of 6.42 cr. has been incurred on the project up to 31.3.2000. An outlay of Rs. 6 cr. has also been provided in 2000-01.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with the Karnataka Government for taking up the balance work through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to be set up jointly by the Railways and Karnataka Government. The modalities for setting up this SPV are being sorted out by the Karnataka Government.

Gauge Conversion Works

332. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total length of meter gauge converted into broad gauge in different States, Zone-wise/State-wise and the pogress of conversion works;

(b) by when these are likely to be completed and the effective meaures being taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Budget allocation has been increased to carry out conversion works; and

(d) if so, the details of financial allocations made during the last three years, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Out of the 14657 kms of NG/MG lines identified for conversion into BG in the first phase of the Action Plan, 9755 kms have been converted. A Statement indicating the sections converted into BG so far is attached (*See* below) Work is in progress on 4900 kms which would be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources Progress of the Works is being monitored at the highest level. Funds and materials are being provided to expedite the work.

(c) This will be known when the Railway Budget is presented in Parliament.